



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

Recently, the bureau provided notification of a Public Forum relative to the adoption of the first single state code. A separate notice was provided as this publication will not reach you prior to the public forum date of August 28, 2000. This forum was announced as a result of amendments to the State Construction Code Act signed into law in December, 1999, that provide for the adoption of a single state code based in part on the family of codes published by the International Code Council.

Michigan has a long history in the use of nationally recognized model codes. With the consolidation of the three model codes, a single set of codes has been published. The international family of codes incorporates all three of the existing nationally recognized model codes. With the adoption of the Single State Code, Michigan will again lead the nation in the use of nationally written model codes.

Many communities and code officials have expressed concerns that this single set of construction documents will not address regional or local construction concerns. To assist in this understanding, the public forum was scheduled to allow all interested parties the opportunity to voice their concerns and to ask questions regarding the development and adoption of this first statewide code.

(Continued on Page 2)

Apply Today - Build Tomorrow A Real Possibility

Bureau and department representatives recently attended a presentation of a software system designed to provide "on-the-spot" building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits through the internet. The system is designed to assist contractors in securing permits within 24 hours of submission. Permits will only be issued once the application process is complete; however, if information is deficient, an instant message should be directed to the applicant.

In order to determine if this system is feasible for use in Michigan, the bureau is preparing a survey to seek input from contractors. Each permit would be assessed a service fee which covers the cost of operating the system. Users in other parts of the country have indicated a willingness to pay the fee to secure a permit within this time frame. Users will be required to file certain information into the system and would establish a password for future entry.

The bureau is excited about this possibility to expedite service to permit applicants and hope you find this opportunity beneficial to your business. Please watch for this survey and take a moment to respond.

State Permit Applications

When filing an application for permit with the Bureau of Construction Codes, please make sure you have the appropriate application. Recently, the bureau has received several "generic" applications where individuals are requesting a permit. The generic applications were provided to local units of government in January of this year as a result of the Construction Code Commission prescribing applications for use at the local level. It was intended that the applications be revised to include local government information and provided only to applicants requesting permits from the local unit of government. The generic forms contain no identifying information on the application or construction fees.

The bureau's applications are easy to recognize as the name and address is identified at the top of the page. The building and electrical permit applications are white, mechanical is blue, and plumbing is yellow. Please make certain to file the correct application; otherwise, the permit issuance will be delayed. Permit applications can be obtained from the bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc. If you would like an application mailed to you or have questions regarding the application process please contact the bureau at (517) 241-9313.

BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, AND PLUMBING PERMITS HAVE A NEW LOOK

The bureau recently revised building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits, correction notices and invoices. The new documents contain all information previously provided; however the format is now easier to read and understand. Permits issued prior to this article contained a notice of change to assure applicants that the document they received was indeed a permit, correction notice, or invoice. All permits issued from this date forward will receive only the new document(s) without a notice of change. We are hopeful this new format assists permit holders to easily identify permit details and requirements.

Director's Column, continued...

The public forum provides an opportunity to review in detail the specific proposals being advanced for the state codes. Each code discipline: plumbing, building and mechanical will be reviewed. Participants in the development process will be available to answer questions regarding how the codes were developed and the basis for the code language being proposed.

In January of this year, a notice was provided to each code official offering an opportunity to participate in the code development process. This included submission of code change proposals and attendance at the respective code development committee meetings. Over a period of several months representatives from the construction community participated in the development of these proposals. Each proposal was reviewed in detail and every person attending or submitting information was afforded an opportunity to discuss the proposal.

With the adoption of a single set of construction regulations, many localized concerns were addressed. Each committee reviewed all concerns

and offered rationale and a proposed solution to the specific concerns brought before them.

The public forum provides an opportunity to review the committee work prior to the rules being forwarded for public hearing. The public forum is not the same as the public hearing. At the public forum, information is exchanged in an informal manner to determine if further changes to the proposed rules are necessary and appropriate. Participants will have a greater opportunity to explore alternatives for the code.

The committee work and the proposed revisions to the codes are provided in the code matrix. This matrix outlines the code text from the previous state code rules, how it interacts with the 2000 editions of the International Codes and where specific code language is being proposed, it is offered for review. Copies of the matrix are available on the bureau's web site, www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc/rules.htm.

We are excited to work with you in the development of construction regulations to assure safe construction and occupancy of buildings in the State of Michigan.

If you did not receive notification of the public forum and wish to receive notification of the public hearing, please send us a note indicating your interest including your name and address.

Attention Registered Inspectors

Recently the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services mailed a listing of approved programs to all registered inspectors. Since this mailing, the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) notified the bureau of a change of address and phone number. For those of you who have questions or inquires relating to educational programs provided by ICBO, they may be contacted in writing at 335 Ridge Point Drive, Carmel, Indiana, 46032, or by phone at 1 (800) 243-5736 or (317) 706-1677. Their fax number is (317) 706-1667. Please make note of these changes.

Elevator Permits

by Calvin W. Rogler

This is to remind all licensed elevator contractors and journeypersons that prior to any installation and/or alteration work on elevators an approved elevator permit must be obtained from the Elevator Safety Division. Elevators must be inspected by a general elevator inspector prior to placing it back into service. The following apply to these situations:

Act 227 of the Public Acts of 1967, Section 15(1), states in part that "a person, firm or corporation shall not install or alter an elevator without first having obtained a permit therefor from the department. A permit shall be issued only to a person, firm or corporation licensed by the director as an elevator contractor." **It is the policy of the Elevator Safety Division that the elevator permit or a copy be posted on the job site to be viewed by authorized personnel.**

Rule 408.8133, of the Michigan Elevator Laws and Rules, states: "A new, altered, or relocated elevator shall not be placed into service until it has been inspected by, and tested in the presence of, a general inspector, except as provided in section 15 of the act."

Failure to comply with the Act and Rules can result in the following:

1. An elevator may be sealed out of service.
2. The elevator contractor and/or journeyperson license may be suspended or revoked.
3. A person, firm, or corporation may be fined or imprisoned.

Questions may be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

Electrical Apprentice Renewals

Apprentice renewal forms have been mailed to all registered apprentices. If you are presently registered and have not received your renewal form, please contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF
CONSTRUCTION
CODESMICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF CONSUMER &
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 46,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, and inspector registrants throughout the state.

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New Data Sheet Not Required for Boiler Installers by Bryan Jorgensen

At the June 13, 2000, Board of Boiler Rules board meeting, the Board issued a Resolution resulting in the following action.

Properly licensed boiler installers in classes 3B, 4B and 5B are not required to complete the P4B data report required by ASME Code Section I Power Boilers for mechanically assembled boiler external piping.

This action resulted in response to the hardship placed on Michigan licensed installers and owners by the ASME Code change incorporating the requirement. For more details regarding the requirements refer to paragraph PG-112.2.5 of the 1998 ASME Code Section I.

The Board's decision was based on the lack of evidence to support the need for the additional certification and associated cost. The Boiler Division's accident and violation history show no events resulting from installation of mechanically assembled boiler external piping by properly licensed individuals. Letters with a copy of the resolution have been sent to all class 3B, 4B and 5B installers.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

Electrical Licenses

by Thomas R. Kriegish

The Electrical Division has completed license changes from the renewal period ending March 1, 2000. The number of changes in business names and master electrician representation was overwhelming and in reviewing the volume of changes we have noted that many contractors have been operating their business with an assumed name or have incorporated without notifying this office at the time of change.

Many contractor applications are completed using a personal name for the contractor license and the license is issued based on the information provided on the application. If you have changed the name of your contracting business you must notify this office immediately. Do not wait until the renewal application arrives to request the change. Typically, these requests require submission of additional information causing a considerable delay in processing the license renewal.

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Mechanical Rules	Sept. 6	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	Sept. 8	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	Sept. 8	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Sept. 12	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
State Plumbing Board	Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Construction Code Commission	Sept. 13	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Oct. 20	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
State Plumbing Board	Oct. 25	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Mechanical Rules	Oct. 25	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Commission	Nov. 1	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	Nov. 3	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	Nov. 3	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos
Escanaba Office Bldg. - 922 N. Lincoln, Escanaba

License Exam Schedule

EXAM	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	Sept. 8	Okemos	Aug. 21
Electrical Exam	Sept. 28	Escanaba	Aug. 30
Elevator Journeyperson Exam	Oct. 18	Okemos	Sept. 29
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	Nov. 3	Okemos	Oct. 16
Mechanical Contractor Exam	Dec. 5/6	Detroit	Nov. 6/7
Boiler National Board Exam	Dec. 6/7	Okemos	Nov. 7
Boiler Installer/Repairer Exam	Dec. 6/7	Okemos	Nov. 10
Plumbing Exam	Dec. 13	East Lansing	Nov. 22

Dates and locations are subject to change.

ROUGH-IN PLUMBING INSPECTIONS

by Robert G. Konyndyk

The Plumbing Division has recently observed errors in the performance of plumbing fixtures without proper venting due to partial installations at rough-in.

Contractors installing a portion of the rough-in piping prior to drywalling for first payment draw; uneven basement levels; or other reasons, are in violation of the code. Required inspections and testing from the International Plumbing Code, 1997 edition, Section 107.1, Item (2) states:

"Rough-in inspection shall be made after the roof, framing, fireblocking, firestopping, draftstopping, and bracing is in place and **all** sanitary, storm and water distribution piping is roughed-in, and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes."

An inspection of the entire plumbing system in the rough stage is required by the code.

Unusual circumstances shall be addressed by having an approved set of plans when required or detailed drawings on site indicating the complete installation. During the rough-in inspection the master plumber or homeowner obtaining the permit shall be present at the inspection with the inspector and shall sign the plans or drawings. The contractor shall ensure that the signed documents remain on site. Later installation adhering to the code following these drawings will ensure the final inspection confirms correct operation.

Questions may be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

Private University and College Construction

by Irvin J. Poke

There is considerable confusion regarding the regulation of construction involving facilities for private universities and colleges. This article will address the common questions that arise and hopefully eliminate the puzzlement. To do this we must review 1972 P.A. 230, Michigan State Construction Code Act, 1937 P.A. 306, School Construction Act and 1941 P.A. 207, Fire Safety Act.

The Michigan State Construction Code Act provides for the regulation of construction throughout the state. The Act exempts schools and state universities as defined in article 8 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963 from compliance with this act. These are the only exemptions for educational facilities in Act 230.

The School Construction Act defines and governs school facilities. A school is defined as an institution governed by a school board under the auspices of the State Department of Education. This limits schools to facilities for kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Fire Safety Act provides the authority for the regulation of Schools, Colleges, Universities, Community Colleges, and certain other buildings by the state for fire safety. The act does not supercede the authority of the local code enforcing agency to apply its construction regulations to projects within its jurisdiction.

Private colleges are not state universities as defined in section 4 of article 8 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963 and are not exempt from local codes. Private college buildings are under the authority of the local code enforcement agency for building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing code compliance.

Attention Program Providers and Instructors

by Scott D. Fisher

In recent weeks, we have had to contact a number of providers and instructors of continuing education programs because of the inconsistencies contained on program rosters.

After reviewing each case, we have found that the programs were approved by staff and the Construction Code Commission, as submitted by the provider. However, when the program rosters were submitted, the information on the roster was different from the information contained in the program approval. Because of these discrepancies, we have been unable to enter proper information on inspector's credit statements.

If you are considering submitting a program for approval, please make sure that all information on the application is correct. If you have already received a program approval, it is important that you read the approval letters to insure that the approval information is correct. The information contained in the approval letter should be accurately reflected on your program roster.

Providing proper information on program rosters will assist in eliminating some of the unnecessary problems that are encountered at the end of each registration cycle.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

Holiday Closings

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

September 4 - Labor Day

November 10 - Veteran's Day

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